

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway's 'The Birds of North and Middle America' Part VII.¹—

While less bulky than its predecessors Part VII of Mr. Ridgway's great work follows them closely in style and execution. As heretofore the footnotes are replete with synonymy and citations of types and type localities for many extralimital genera and species which render the volume a storehouse of information for those working on the neotropical avifauna, who extend their researches beyond the isthmus. For America north of Panama it is, like the preceding parts, a monograph.

As an illustration of the thoroughness of Mr. Ridgway's studies, he states on p. 108 that he has examined representatives of all of the American genera of Parrots but *Cyanopsitta*, specimens of which, by the way, are in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy.

Most of the new names that he has found it necessary to establish as the work proceeded have been published in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington and we notice only two in the present volume. *Enanas plumbea chapmani* (p. 325), Gualea, Ecuador; and *Zenaidura macrura caurina* (p. 348), Oregon. Mr. Ridgway's practice of proposing new names in footnotes with not even heavy-faced type to attract attention to them is unfortunate, in view of the trouble that obscurely published names have caused in the past. The latter of these new forms moreover is proposed "provisionally" based on "three very poor specimens," with a "provisional type" designated. The author is surely aware that there is no difference nomenclaturally between "provisional" and other names or types and this *Zenaidura m. caurina* must rest for all time on an admittedly unsatisfactory type specimen.

The nomenclature of the North American species differs somewhat from that of the A. O. U. Check-List. *Conuropsis carolinensis interior* appears as *C. c. ludoricianus*, the Louisiana bird belonging to the interior race in Mr. Ridgway's opinion; Linnæus however is wrongly cited as the authority for the name. *Coccyzus minor minor* should apparently be omitted from the Check-List as all the unquestioned Florida birds seen by Mr. Ridgway are *C. m. maynardi*, while Audubon's specimen, said to be from Florida proves to be *C. m. nesiotus*. Among the doves the genera *Geotrygon* and *Columba* are subdivided, our species of the former becoming *Oreopeleia*, while *Columba fasciata* and *flavirostris* fall in *Chlorænas*, and *C. leucocephala*

¹ The Birds | of | North and Middle America: | A Descriptive Catalogue | of the | Higher Groups, Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds | known to occur in North America, from the | Arctic Lands to the Isthmus of Panama | the West Indies and other Islands | of the Caribbean Sea, and the | Galapagos Archipelago. | By | Robert Ridgway, | Curator, Division of Birds. | Part VII.

Family Cuculidæ. Family Psittacidæ. Family Columbidae. Bulletin of the United States National Museum. No. 50. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1916. [dated May 5, received May 29]. pp. i-xiii + 1-543, pl. I-XXIV.

and *squamosa* in *Patagioenas*. Following Todd, and we think rightly, the Ground Dove of the Southern States is called *Chæmepelia passerina passerina*, while the Bermuda form is regarded as identical with *C. p. bahamensis*. *Melopelia asiatica trudeaui* Aud. appears as *M. a. mearnsi* Ridgw., since Mr. Ridgway considers Audubon's description and plate to represent the eastern form. Audubon's type is in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (see Cat. Types in Colln. Phila. Acad. Proc. A. N. S. Phila. 1899) and proves, as Mr. Ridgway suggests, to be true *asiatica*.

The type of *Psittacula lineola* Cassin is also in this collection, as recorded in the same paper, yet Mr. Ridgway quotes a letter from Prof. Heilprin, written over thirty years ago, to the effect that it had disappeared.

In a work of such proportions however, it is inevitable that some publications are overlooked and the above facts are offered not in a spirit of criticism but to supplement the history of these cases.

All ornithologists will congratulate themselves as well as Mr. Ridgway upon the appearance of Part VII and will earnestly hope that he may be able to push the remaining parts to an early completion. The families still to be considered, while they contain, as a rule, fewer species and races, have received less critical study than those which have gone before and it is therefore greatly to be desired that we should have the benefit of Mr. Ridgway's careful treatment in them as well as in the Passerine and Picarian groups.—W. S.

Todd's 'Birds of the Isle of Pines.'¹—Mr. Todd's latest contribution to neotropical ornithological literature is an admirable monograph of the birds of the Isle of Pines. The work is based primarily upon a collection of 842 skins obtained by Mr. Gustav A. Link of the taxidermic force of the Carnegie Museum during a residence of a year on the island, in 1912 and 1913. Much additional material was examined, however, and the literature exhaustively studied, so that practically all that is known of the bird life of the island is incorporated in this paper.

Besides the annotated list which covers 142 species, there is an outline of the Geography and Physiography of the Isle of Pines and notes on 'Climate'; 'Previous Work'; 'Seasonal Occurrence'; 'Faunal Affinities' and 'List of Localities,' as well as several half tone plates of scenery and a map.

The affinities of the fauna are naturally with that of Cuba. In fact of 126 species breeding in western Cuba, 85 are found also on the Isle of Pines, while eight others are represented there by closely related forms, only one of which is regarded by Mr. Todd as sufficiently distinct to warrant specific rank.

¹ The Birds of the Isle of Pines. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Ann. Carnegie Mus., Vol. X. Nos. 1-2, 1916. pp. 146-296, pl. XXII-XXVII. January 31, 1916 [received, March 6, 1916].